

## **PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY**

### **STAKEHOLDER MEETING TALKING POINTS**

**8/17/10**

- ❑ We have much to be proud of in what we have accomplished in our service delivery system in the 1980s to the 2000s
  - We closed our institutions in the 1990s
  - To replace institutions, the State and its founding providers built a community centered service delivery system – one of the first in the nation
  - We were one of the first states to emphasize personal choice of services
  - Our efforts were a model for the nation
  - We serve more people with developmental disabilities than the national average with a more comprehensive group of services
- ❑ But today RI, as other states, is facing enormous challenges
  - There is simply no more money. Our state, like others, is experiencing significant revenue shortfalls. The current budget has a \$32million gap.
  - Service demand steadily increases year-to-year because people are living longer, baby-boomers are aging and can't continue to care for their loved ones at home, and people graduate from high school every year.
  - The individuals we serve are experiencing age-related medical conditions including Alzheimer's Disease
  - We are facing a significant increase in the number of adults who will need supports with autism spectrum disorders
- ❑ We can not stay where we are. We can either take the lead in developing the next generation Rhode Island Developmental Disability system or sit back and watch the continual decline of our service delivery system and a continued reduction in available funding.
  - In 2011 we have been asked to absorb another cut of \$7 million. This is in addition to a reduction in expenditures of \$5.7 million in FY 2009 and \$2.7 million 2010. The cuts expected for 2012 are even larger. In 2011, our expenditures are expected to be \$22.7 million less than they were in 2008, a 10.5 percent decline.
  - Between 1993 and 2010, the amount spent per person declined from over \$108,000 to \$62,000. This in large part was by emphasizing the use of family and non-overnight supports and decreasing reliance on residential group homes.

- ❑ As our funding has declined, the challenge to maintain and expand innovative service approaches has increased.

- Self-direction needs to be better developed.
- We need to better tie the resources individuals are allocated for their community supports directly to their assessed needs
- We need to reimburse providers for their services based on a common rate and common unit of service.
- We need to continue to develop more innovative service options particularly around employment, meaningful day activities and independent living options

- ❑ **Our vision for the next generation system for Rhode Island**

- A system that supports people living in the community in charge of their lives
- A system that allows individuals to spend resources more flexibility than today
- A system that aligns resources to individual needs – people get what they need, no more, no less
- A system that pays equally for the same service as a matter of fairness for providers and for individuals, which makes dollars go farther and makes it easier for individuals to receive the services from who they want and from where they want
- **A system where information is transparent for all our stakeholders, service recipients, providers, the federal government, the legislature and our Governor**

Why is this so important – let me read from a recent email from the Budget Office:

“We have no methodology or cost basis for calculating a current service adjustment for caseloads.” it goes on to say that a new data system “might provide more comprehensive information that could lead to a cost methodology for estimating net changes in caseloads and costs based upon the services provided.”

- **A system that is sustainable.**

- ❑ To develop the system that meets our vision will take a serious effort by all of us to:

- Define the services with our stakeholders that we want to offer based not just on what we have today but the service options we want to have five/ten years from now

- Develop a fair common rate methodology with our stakeholders that articulates clearly what it is we want to buy, the assumptions used to reach a common rate, and how the rate should increase from year to year and be periodically rebased In this design, all of us will know the appropriation needed to support the rates and can advocate for them together
  - Select a fair assessment tool that does a variety of things including provide the base for consumer directed care planning, allow us to align resources to individual needs, and provide mechanisms for individuals' changing circumstances and need for supports as they live their lives
  - Develop the information system capacity within the Department and the State as a whole that streamlines data flow for providers, provides the tools for assessment, care planning and resource allocation; and allows the provision of information on what we spend, how we spend it, and the outcomes we achieve that is transparent for all of our stakeholders
- ❑ What do we need from our stakeholders – individuals, families, providers and agencies?
- Commitment to work with us in developing the next generation system
  - Participation on three work groups – one to develop an assessment strategy, a second to define our services package and a third to work with us in developing a common rate methodology
  - From individuals with developmental disabilities and advocates we need to hear from you on the services you want in the way you want them delivered. We want to hear from you through focus groups we will conduct, a survey for service recipients, and periodic interviews as well as a fourth workgroup
  - From provider agencies, we need you to help us as we define care planning and services through cooperation with site visits made by our consultants. We will also need your help on a provider survey to collect some of the information needed to develop a common rate methodology.